

**From:** EPA News [noreply@cision.com]  
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**To:** Harris, Michael [harris.michael@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** EPA Chicago - Weekend Media Report - Monday, October 25, 2021

## EPA Chicago - Weekend Media Report - Monday, October 25, 2021

### Report Overview:

Total Clips (12)


Grants (1)





Waste – Hazardous (1)

Water - Drinking (7)








Water - Surface (2)

Other (1)

Headline	Date	Outlet	Outlet State	
Grants (1)				
 <b>Whitmer seeks water pipe funds</b>	10/21/2021	The Ann Arbor News, The	MI	 
Waste – Hazardous (1)				
 <b>Hazardous waste drop off event</b>	10/23/2021	WCCU-TV Online		 
Water - Drinking (7)				
 <b>Benton Harbor water crisis takes center stage in Lansing</b>	10/22/2021	Herald-Palladium Online, The	MI	 
 <b>Benton Harbor, Michigan, declares state of emergency due to contaminated water - WISH-TV</b>	10/22/2021	WISH-TV Online	IN	 
 <b>Burst water main kills pressure to entire Benton Harbor system</b>	10/21/2021	MLive	MI	 
 <b>Lawmakers tackle Benton Harbor water crisis at hearing</b>	10/21/2021	WOOD-TV Online	MI	 
 <b>Legislative Hearing to Dig Into Benton Harbor Water Situation</b>	10/20/2021	Moody on the Market	MI	 
 <b>Michigan Senate launches Benton</b>	10/19/2021	MLive	MI	 


	<b>Harbor water oversight probe Senate committee investigating Michigan's response to Benton Harbor water crisis</b>	<b>10/19/2021</b>	<b>Holland Sentinel Online, The</b>	<b>MI</b>	  
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#### Water - Surface (2)

	<b>City breaks ground on new water treatment facility</b>	<b>10/23/2021</b>	<b>Journal-Standard, The</b>	<b>IL</b>	 
	<b>Ohio Ag Connection - Toledo to Get EPA Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant</b>	<b>10/22/2021</b>	<b>Ohio Ag Connection</b>	<b>WI</b>	  

#### Other (1)

	<b>Agreement forged; In Grown Farms to get Freeport water, sewer hookups</b>	<b>10/23/2021</b>	<b>Rockford Register Star</b>	<b>IL</b>	 
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**News Headline:** Whitmer seeks water pipe funds | 

**News Date:** 10/21/2021

**Outlet Full Name:** The Ann Arbor News, The

**Outlet State:** MI

**News Text:** BENTON HARBOR â€” Gov. Gretchen Whitmer wants the Michigan Legislature to appropriate \$11.4 million to help fund lead pipe removals in Benton Harbor, where residents are relying on bottled water amid an escalating water crisis.

Whitmer met with community leaders in Benton Harbor on Tuesday as part of a "listening session" in which she called on state lawmakers to help cover the estimated \$30 million cost to replace all the lead pipes within the city's aged network of buried water lines.

"I cannot imagine the stress that moms and dads in Benton Harbor are under as they emerge from a pandemic, work hard to put food on the table, pay the bills and face a threat to the health of their children," Whitmer said in a statement. "That's why we will not rest until every parent feels confident to give their kid a glass of water knowing that it is safe."

The governor urged the legislature to use federal stimulus funding available from the American Rescue Plan to cover the additional infrastructure replacement costs.

Republicans said they planned to

consider \$600 million for statewide drinking water infrastructure in the Senate Appropriations Committee meeting on Wednesday.

"We've been focused on making sure we can replace lead lines and ensure clean drinking water," said Abby Mitch, spokeswoman for Sen. Majority Leader Mike Shirkey. "That's why we are taking up a proposal sponsored by Sen.

(Jon) Bumstead tomorrow in Appropriations Committee that would, in part, allocate \$600 million for lead line replacement."

Last week, Whitmer pledged to have 100% of the city's lead pipes dug up by April 2023, an ambitious 18-month window to complete an effort that has barely begun and was previously expected to take about five years to complete.


Benton Harbor has somewhere between about 3,000 and 6,000 lead service lines, but nobody is really sure where they're located due to poor record-keeping.

The city was targeting about 100 lines for removal starting later this month using a \$5.6 million grant the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency last awarded last fall.

That, coupled with \$10 million in the state's 2022 budget and another \$3 million in state revolving funds, totals \$18.6 million currently available for the project.

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**News Headline:** Hazardous waste drop off event | 

**News Date:** 10/23/2021


**Outlet Full Name:** WCCU-TV Online

**Outlet State:**

**News Text:** Springfield, Il - Illinois residents had the chance to dispose of hazardous waste safely thanks to an event at the Illinois State...

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**News Headline:** Benton Harbor water crisis takes center stage in Lansing | 

**News Date:** 10/22/2021


**Outlet Full Name:** Herald-Palladium Online, The

**Outlet State:** MI

**News Text:** ...working on the city's water should be back in a few weeks from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "We hope this study...

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**News Headline:** Benton Harbor, Michigan, declares state of emergency due to contaminated water - WISH-TV | 

**News Date:** 10/22/2021


**Outlet Full Name:** WISH-TV Online

**Outlet State:** IN

**News Text:** ...from the Michigan Clean Water plan, and a \$5.6 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The governor's news...

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**News Headline:** Burst water main kills pressure to entire Benton Harbor system | 

**News Date:** 10/21/2021


**Outlet Full Name:** MLive

**Outlet State:** MI

**News Text:** ...and after water pressure is restored. A petition filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Sept. 20 by a group...

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**News Headline:** Lawmakers tackle Benton Harbor water crisis at hearing | 

**News Date:** 10/21/2021

**Outlet Full Name:** WOOD-TV Online

**Outlet State:** MI

**News Text:** ...why the situation seems to have worsened so quickly. EGLE said the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now conducting...

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**News Headline:** Legislative Hearing to Dig Into Benton Harbor Water Situation | 

**News Date:** 10/20/2021

**Outlet Full Name:** Moody on the Market

**Outlet State:** MI

**News Text:** ...drink straight from the tap. In a petition last month asking the federal Environmental Protection Agency to intervene, local...

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**News Headline:** Michigan Senate launches Benton Harbor water oversight probe | 

**News Date:** 10/19/2021


**Outlet Full Name:** MLive

**Outlet State:** MI

**News Text:** ...and public advocacy organizations filed a petition with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Sept. 20 seeking a...

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**News Headline:** Senate committee investigating Michigan's response to Benton Harbor water crisis | 

**News Date:** 10/19/2021


**Outlet Full Name:** Holland Sentinel Online, The

**Outlet State:** MI

**News Text:** Senate committee investigating Michigan's response to Benton Harbor water crisisDave Boucher | Detroit Free Press The Senate Oversight...

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**News Headline:** City breaks ground on new water treatment facility | 

**News Date:** 10/23/2021

**Outlet Full Name:** Journal-Standard, The

**Outlet State:** IL

**News Text:** FREEPORT The Freeport City Council, Mayor Jodi Miller, Winter Construction and Fehr Graham broke ground on the city's new water treatment facility Oct. 15.

The water facility has been in development since 2017 and is slated to provide two-thirds of the city's daily water needs.

It's part of the city's \$12.8 million well and water treatment project to upgrade its antiquated water system built in the 1880s.

The project is funded through Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loans. Fehr Graham led the design and engineering of this project. In August, Winter Construction began its first phases in the construction of this facility.

"This facility will increase city water quality and lower long-term operating costs," Freeport Public Works Director Rob Boyer said in a news release


Construction is due to be completed no later than 2023.

Mayor Jodi Miller thanked Fehr Graham and Winter Construction for being integral businesses to Freeport's economy and the construction of the water treatment facility.

"This new facility is part of the ongoing process in making Freeport a great place to live, work and play," Miller said.

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**News Headline:** Ohio Ag Connection - Toledo to Get EPA Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant | 

**News Date:** 10/22/2021


**Outlet Full Name:** Ohio Ag Connection

**Outlet State:** WI

**News Text:** Ohio Ag News Headlines Toledo to Get EPA Water Infrastructure Workforce Development Grant Ohio Ag Connection - 10/22/2021 The...

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**News Headline:** Agreement forged; In Grown Farms to get Freeport water, sewer hookups | 

**News Date:** 10/23/2021

**Outlet Full Name:** Rockford Register Star

**Outlet State:** IL

**News Text:** FREEPORT â€œ The demand for adult-use cannabis has resulted in a boon for a Freeport business and local government agencies.

In Grown Farms, a cannabis cultivation center at 3597 E. Colby Road, has filled more than 130 of 150 full- and part-time positions, and now awaits to be connected the City of Freeport's water and sewer lines.

The latter may not happen for a while.

Stephenson County, as part of an intergovernmental agreement with the city, must first extend its lines from Lamm Road and Walnut Avenue to Springfield Road, near In Grown's 80,000 square-foot facility.

"Once it's connected, and it passes all inspections, the city will take it over, maintain it and In Grown will become our customer," Freeport City Manager Randy Bukas said.

Engineering work has just started, Bukas said, and should be completed in about three months. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is expected to take another three months to review and approve the plans.

Construction is expected to take another three, possibly six months.

"We're probably looking at next fall as far as when it's done," Bukas said.

In Grown, which processes cannabis for the entire state, has its own well and septic system that's operating sufficiently for the time being. Every so often though, the system gets overloaded.

When that happens, the company trucks in water to keep up with the facility's needs.

Under the intergovernmental agreement, In Grown Farms, about five miles from the city limits, will not annex to Freeport as part of the water and sewer extension project. "There is a revision in there though that says if and when they are contiguous to the city, they would have to annex to the city," Bukas said.

There is no timeline when that will happen. Leaders say they are hopeful the new service lines will attract more development to the area known as Mill Race Crossing, a 149-acre area designated as an industrial park.

In Grown Farms, the first business in the park, occupies about 20 acres. The county owns about 100 acres.

Stephenson County Board Chairman Bill Hadley has been the county's stalwart for Mill Race Crossing and has been working to attract developers to the park.

He said In Grown Farms is a great first step. "Any time a company hires up to 150 employees in our county, we are happy and very pleased with that."

"We know it's local people who are working out there," Hadley said.

In Grown Farms General Manager Charles Amadin attributes the recent hiring surge to Illinois' 2020 legalization of adult-cannabis.

"We went from seven people in 2019 to a little over 130, on our way to 150," Amadin said.

Jobs at In Grown Farms start at \$16 per hour. Almost all current employees live in the Freeport area, Amadin said.

Part of Acreage Holdings, In Grown Farms started in a 3,000 square-foot outbuilding next to its new facility back in 2015, when only medical marijuana was legal in Illinois.

It now produces premium cannabis for patients and customers in both the medical and recreational markets. Acreage Holdings operates 20 cultivation centers across the county.

Jim Hagerty is a freelance correspondent.

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